



Facts and Figures

By the Numbers

Crater Lake lies inside a caldera, or volcanic basin, created about 7,700 years ago when the 12,000 foot (3,660 meter) high Mount Mazama collapsed following a major eruption. The lake averages more than 5 miles (8 km) in diameter, and is surrounded by steep rock walls that rise up to 2,00 feet (600 meters) above the lake's surface. The lake itself is 1,943 feet (592 meters) deep at its deepest point. This makes it the deepest lake in the United States and one of the deepest lakes in the world. It is fed almost entirely by snowfall, which averages 528 inches (1,341 cm) per year. There is no outlet from the lake; evaporation and seepage prevent the lake from becoming any deeper. The lake level fluctuates slightly from year to year. Its highest recorded level was measured in 1975, when the lake's surface reached a height of 6,179.34 feet above sea level. The lowest level recorded was 6,136.20 feet in 1942.

Because Crater Lake is filled almost entirely by snow fall, it is one of the clearest lakes in the world. Scientists using a reflector called a Secchi disk commonly record clarity readings of 120 feet (37 meters). On June 25, 1997, scientists recorded a record clarity reading of 142 feet (43.3 meters).

Lake temperature varies between 32°F (0°C) and 66°F (19°C) at the surface. More than 260 feet (80 meters) beneath the surface, the water remains 38°F (3°C) year-round. The surface of the lake rarely freezes. The last significant freezing event occurred in 1949, when the entire lake was frozen for more than three months.

A small volcanic island, Wizard Island, rises 767 feet (234 meters) above the surface of the lake on its west side. A small crater, 300 feet (90 meters) across and 90 feet (27 meters) deep, rests on the summit. Crater Lake was named for this beautiful, symmetrical crater by James Sutton, editor of the *Oregon Sentinel* in Jacksonville, in 1869.

Scientists have identified 157 species of phytoplankton and 12 species of zooplankton in the lake. The density and diversity of these minute life forms is restricted by low concentrations of nitrogen in the lake. Large colonies of moss circle the lake at depths of up to 400 feet (120 meters). At the bottom of the lake, communities of bacteria grow around at least two areas of hydrothermal activity. Two species of fish, rainbow trout and kokanee salmon, also thrive in the lake, the result of stocking between 1888 and 1942.

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| Greatest Depth | 1,943 feet (592 meters) |
| Average Depth | 1,148 feet (350 meters) |
| Average Surface Elevation | 6,173 feet (1,881 meters) above sea level |
| Surface Area | 13,199 acres (5340 ha) |
| Widest Point | 6.02 miles (9.69 km) Discovery Point - Grotto Cove |
| Narrowest Point | 4.54 miles (7.31 km) Dutton Cliff-Llao Rock |
| Average Height of Rim | 1,000 feet (300 meters) above the water |
| Highest Point on Rim | 1,978 feet (603 meters) above |
| Lowest Point on Rim | 507 feet (155 meters) above the water at Palisade Point |
| Wizard Island Elevation | 767 feet (234 meters) above the water |
| Volume of Water | 5 trillion gallons (19 trillion liters) |

Park Lands

Total Area: 183,224 acres (286 sq. mi., 78,117 ha)

- Crater Lake: 13,199 acres (20.6 sq. mi.)
- Munson Valley Historic District: 7.5 acres

Maintained Trails: 90 miles (145 km)

Pacific Crest Trail: 33 miles (53 km)

Roads: 79 miles (127 km)

Paved Roads: 74 miles (119)

Rim Drive: 33 miles (53 km)

Elevations:

- Highest point in park: 8,929 feet (2,721 meters) at Mount Scott
- Rim Village: 7,100 feet (2,165 meters)
- Park Headquarters: 6,450 feet (1,966 meters)
- Mazama Village: 6,004 feet (1,824 meters)
- Lowest point in park: 3,977 feet (1,212 meters) at Red Bluff Canyon

Plants and Animals

Plant Species: 680

- Threatened or of special concern: 4
- Non-native species: 49

Animale Species:

- Mammals: 74
- Birds: 158

- Amphibians: 13
- Reptiles: 13
- Fish: 5 (1 native, 4 non-native)
- Threatened or endangered: 4 (lynx, northern spotted owl, bull trout, tailed frog)

Weather

Precipitation:

- Average precipitation: 66.8 inches (170 cm)
- Average snowfall: 528 inches (1,341 cm)
- Minimum annual snowfall: 243 inches (617 cm) 1991-92
- Maximum annual snowfall: 879 inches (2,233 cm) 1932-33

- Maximum recorded snowpack: 252 inches (640 cm) 1983

Temperatures from January to March average 18° F (-9°C) at night and 35°F (2°C) during the day. Temperatures from July to September average 40°F (4°C) at night and 67°F (19°C) during the day.

Visitation and Entrance Fees

Crater Lake averages about 500,000 visitors per year.

2008 Statistics:

Total Visitors: 415,686

Backcountry Campers: 1,349

Single, private, non-commercial vehicles : \$10
Pedestrians, single motorcyclists, and bicyclists: \$5
Commercial buses: \$25 to \$200, depending on capacity

Visitor Services

During the summer, guided walks, talks, campfire programs, and junior ranger programs are offered by the National Park Service. Interpretive boat tours are offered in cooperation with Xanterra Parks and Resorts. During the winter, the National Park Service offers ranger-guided snowshoe walks.

Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the park's concession company, provides lodging, gifts, gas, camping and food service in the park during the summer. Food service and gifts are usually available during the winter. For information, call (541)830-8700.

Full services are also available in local communities year-round.

Natural History Association

The Crater Lake Natural History Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing educational and scientific activities within Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument. Books, maps, and postcards are available for sale at all park visitor centers. For information go on-line to www.craterlakeoregon.org or call (541)594-3111.

Friends of Crater Lake

The Friends of Crater Lake is a non-profit organization that cooperates with the National Park Service in the stewardship of Crater Lake National Park's natural and cultural resource. For information, write to P.O. Box 88, Crater Lake, OR 97604 or go on-line to <http://friendsofcraterlake.org>

For More Information

Superintendent of Crater Lake National Park:
Craig Ackerman

P.O. Box 7
Crater Lake, OR 97604
(541)594-3000
www.nps.gov/crla